

**TOP SECRET**

**MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Project Director**

**16 August 1956**

**SUBJECT : Project AQUATONE - Summary Report Prepared by [REDACTED]**

25X1A

25X1A

1. Herewith is the report [REDACTED] wrote, dated 30 March, just prior to his reassignment to the Western Air Development Command. I believe that you have seen this document and I know that you, Colonel [REDACTED] and I have discussed many of his recommendations and comments. Many of them, too, have been overtaken by the passage of time. I am, nevertheless, passing it to you with the suggestion that you look it over and see whether there is any further action you think we should consider on the basis of this report.

2. I will make only one or two comments of my own:

a. [REDACTED] recommends in this Headquarters a third senior officer (in addition to myself and yourself), and greater strength in the Administrative Section. My own view is that our activities have been slowed down sufficiently by political circumstances that there is no need for additional staff at any point in this Headquarters.

b. Most of [REDACTED] comments on [REDACTED] the Detachments and [REDACTED] refer to problems that have already been resolved.

c. Under the general heading of Development of Vehicle and Equipment, I believe that there is little unfinished business. More P-31 engines have been ordered and the basic scheduling of these engines is well understood between ourselves and the Air Force. The periscope is still a problem but I hope that [REDACTED] is hard at work on it. We are reasonably up to date on the status of the A-1 and A-2 configurations and the B which now shows considerable promise. System #1 is functioning satisfactorily and I believe there are no major outstanding considerations with respect to Systems #3 and #4. Photographic processing seems to be straightened out at last. As to the sextant installation of the averager is proceeding and results are excellent. In this whole area the two points

**TOP SECRET**

TS-143452 ✓

Copy 2 of 3

25X1A

on which our current activities diverge sharply from [REDACTED] recommendations are with respect to Electronic System #2 and JP-1 fuel. As to the former, I believe we are on the verge of a decision against its use for reasons which [REDACTED] could not very well have foreseen. As to the latter, I am still hopeful that tests will be conducted in due time but remain convinced that this is a lower priority test than others now in progress.

25X1A

25X1A

d. One other comment made by [REDACTED] may deserve mention: namely, his concern with Systems management and the danger of confusion in the integration of sub-systems. I am afraid that a good deal of our experience during the past three months has justified his worry. Nevertheless, I think we are beyond the point where this is a major problem and certainly beyond the point at which any important change in responsibilities could assist in its better solution.

3. I suggest that the above comments of mine together with any you see fit to make be filed with [REDACTED] report as an indication that the latter was not simply disregarded. In fact it has been most helpful to me to have his report at hand and consult it from time to time. I believe most of his recommendations have been carried into effect in one way or another.

25X1A

Attachment:  
Copy 1 of TS-143306

RICHARD M. BISSELL, JR.  
Project Director

RMB:djm  
1-Addressee  
2-Pro. Dir. Chrono  
3-Proj. Chrono

**TOP SECRET**